DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 023 362 HE 000 059

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Experimental Research Project "Headstart" (Getting a "Headstart" to College) June 6, 1966 - January 30, 1967. Preliminary Status Report.
Foothill Coll., Los Altos, Calif.
Pub Date 28 Feb 67
Note -8p.
EDRS Price MF -$0.25 HC -$0.50
Descriptors - *College Preparation, *Freshmen, *Higher Education, *Orientation, Persistence, *Reading, *Special Programs, Students, Study Habits

A program called "Headstart to College" was designed to help students coming to Foothill College meet the problems of orientation, study habits and reading before they entered the college in Fall 1966. Two counselors presented courses entitled "Introduction to College" and "Effective Study," and a reading specialist taught "Analytical Reading." The total cost to the student was $15.00. Of the 101 students who elected to take the program, 96 persisted and earned 5 units of transferable college credit in the 8 week session. Two control groups, each consisting of 82 Foothill College freshmen were randomly selected and matched with the experimental Headstart group according to sex distribution, mean age, mean high school GPA and mean ACT composite score. The criteria checked were number of students persisting, number of units, hours and program changes in student programs, number of units and hours attempted and completed, grade points and GPA, and the total number of Summer Session and Fall Semester units and hours attempted and completed. Although the data are incomplete, results to date indicate that students who participated in the Headstart orientation program made better grades, fewer program changes and persisted longer than other students. (JS)

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OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING • A. ROBERT DEHART, DIRECTOR

RESEARCH REPORT

PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT

EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECT

"HEADSTART"

(GETTING A "HEADSTART" TO COLLEGE)

JUNE 6, 1966—JANUARY 30, 1967

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Los Altos Hills, California

February 28, 1967

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PRELIMINARY STATUS REPORT

Experimental Research Project

"HEADSTART"

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June 6, 1966—January 30, 1967

During the past several years, many Foothill College students in orientation and effective study classes have said "I wish that I could have had these courses before I entered college." In the Summer Session of 1966, Foothill College offered such an opportunity to students who stated that they intended to enter Foothill in the Fall Semester. The program, informally named "Headstart" to college, was designed to help incoming college students with the many problems of orientation, study methods and reading improvement—before they entered college in the fall.

Following carefully planned course outlines, two counselors each handled two sections of Psychology 50/53 ("Introduction to College" and "Effective Study"). A reading specialist taught English 52 ("Analytical Reading") as the third major segment of the program.

Each of the four class sections (approximately 25 students per section) met for three hours a day, four days per week for eight weeks. Students completing the program earned five units of college credit which was both applicable to the Foothill College Liberal Arts A.A. degree, and transferable to San Jose State College as elective units.

The total cost to the student (including fees, text books, and materials) was approximately $15. Several especially prepared "handouts" were given to each student free of charge.

Of the 101 students who elected to take the program, 96 persisted the entire eight weeks. Of those 96, 1 student joined the Army; 6 transferred to other colleges before the beginning of the Fall Semester; 3 enrolled for full-time day programs and were not first-time college freshmen; and 4 registered for part-time evening college programs.* The remaining 82 students, of whom all were first-time freshmen electing at least 10½ units, enrolled in Foothill College for the Fall Semester, 1966.

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* Additional study will be made of these 14 students.

Two control groups, each consisting of 82 first-time Foothill College (Fall, 1966) freshmen electing 10½ units, were randomly selected and matched with the Experimental (EX) "Headstart" group.

1. The Fall Control (FC) group consisted of June 1966 high school graduates who did not attend the 1966 Summer Session before enrolling in the 1966 Fall Semester at Foothill College.

2. The Summer Control (SC) group consisted of June 1966 high school graduates who did attend the 1966 Summer Session but not the "Headstart" program before enrolling in the 1966 Fall Semester at Foothill College.

The experimental and control groups were matched according to sex distribution, mean age, mean high school grade point average (HSG) and mean (ACT) composite standard score.

TABLE I

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS USED IN MATCHING
THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group	N	Sex		Mean Age	Mean HSG (Range)	Mean ACT (Range)
		M	F			
EX	82	55	27	17.7	2.26 (1.0-3.6)	19.1 (10-29)
FC	82	55	27	17.7	2.26 (1.2-3.5)	19.1 (10-30)
SC	Information Not Complete					

The following criteria were checked for two semesters (at pre-determined check-point dates) for the experimental and control groups:

1. Number of students persisting.
2. Number of units in student programs (total and mean).
3. Number of hours in student programs (total and mean).
4. Number of program changes in student programs (total and mean).
5. Number of units attempted, units completed (total and mean), grade points and grade point average.
6. Number of hours attempted and hours completed (total and mean).

In addition, the Experimental (EX) and the Summer Control (SC) groups were compared on the following criteria:

1. Total number of (Summer Session and Fall Semester) units attempted, units completed (total and mean), grade points and grade point average.

2. Total number of (Summer Session and Fall Semester) hours attempted and hours completed (total and mean).

TABLE II

NUMBERS OF STUDENTS PERSISTING
IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group	Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
	9/6/66	9/26/66	12/5/66	1/26/67	1/30/67	2/27/67	4/10/67	6/9/67
EX	82	82	81 (98.8%)	79 (96.3%)	74 (90.2%)			
FC	82	82	77 (93.9%)	73 (89.0%)	66 (80.5%)			
SC	Data Not Yet Available							

TABLE III

NUMBERS OF UNITS IN STUDENT PROGRAMS
IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group		Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
		9/6/66	9/26/66	12/5/66	1/26/67	1/30/67	2/27/67	4/10/67	6/9/67
EX	Num.	82	82	81	79	74			
	Total	1218.0	1179.5	1092.0	1044.5	1059.0			
	Mean	14.85	14.38	13.48	13.22	14.31			
FC	Num.	82	82	77	73	66			
	Total	1210.0	1163.5	1017.0	965.0	946.5			
	Mean	14.76	14.19	13.21	13.22	14.34			
SC	Num. Total Mean	Data Not Yet Available							

TABLE IV

NUMBERS OF HOURS IN STUDENT PROGRAMS
IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group		Fall Semester				Spring Semester			
		9/6/66	9/26/66	12/5/66	1/26/67	1/3067	2/27/67	4/10-67	6/9/67
EX	Num.	82	82	81	79	74			
	Total	1666.0	1609.0	1499.0	1435.0	1432.0			
	Mean	20.32	19.62	18.51	18.16	19.35			
FC	Num.	82	82	77	73	66			
	Total	1622.0	1552.0	1349.0	1283.0	1261.0			
	Mean	19.78	18.93	17.52	17.58	19.11			
SC	Num.	Data Not Yet Available							
	Total								
	Mean								

TABLE V

NUMBERS OF PROGRAM CHANGES IN STUDENT
PROGRAMS IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group		Fall Semester			Spring Semester		
		9/26/66	12/5/66	1/26/67	2/27/67	4/10/67	6/9/67
EX	No. Students Making Changes	25	29	4			
	Total No. of Changes	49	44	12			
	Mean	1.96	1.52	3.00			
FC	No. Students Making Changes	47	29	9			
	Total No. of Changes	138	59	31			
	Mean	2.94	2.03	3.44			
SC	No. Students Making Changes	Data Not Yet Available					
	Total No. of Changes						
	Mean						

TABLE VI

NUMBERS OF UNITS ATTEMPTED, UNITS COMPLETED, GRADE POINTS, AND GRADE POINT AVERAGES FOR THOSE WHO COMPLETED THE FALL SEMESTER IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group		Units Attempted	Units Completed	Grade Points	GPA	Number
EX	Total Mean	1044.5 13.22	986.0 12.48	2191.5	2.10	79
FC	Total Mean	965.0 13.22	900.0 12.33	2002.5	2.08	73
SC	Total Mean	Data Not Yet Available				

TABLE VII

NUMBERS OF HOURS ATTEMPTED AND COMPLETED FOR THOSE WHO COMPLETED THE FALL SEMESTER IN THE EXPERIMENTAL AND CONTROL GROUPS

Group		Hours Attempted	Hours Completed	Number
EX	Total Mean	1435.0 18.16	1369.0 17.33	79
FC	Total Mean	1283.0 17.58	1208.0 16.55	73
SC	Total Mean			

Additional observations based on data collected to date (2/28/67):

1. Of the 24 students, in the EX group, who entered Foothill College on High School Probation (a GPA of less than 2.00), 8 (33.3%) are now on Good Standing (a college GPA of 2.00 or above), and 24 (100.0%) are presently persisting.

Of the 22 students, in the FC group, who entered Foothill College on High School Probation, 4 (18.2%) are now on Good Standing, and 14 (63.6%) are presently persisting.

2. At the beginning of the Fall Semester (9/6/66) students in the EX group registered for a total of 8 more units and 44 more hours than did students in the FC group.

At the beginning of the Spring Semester (1/30/67) persisting students in the EX group (74) registered for a total of 112½ more units and 171 more hours than did persisting students in the FC group (66).

3. There were 105 program changes in the EX group for the Fall Semester.

During the same time, the FC group accumulated 228 program changes.

4. The 79 students in the EX group who persisted to the end of the Fall Semester have now completed (including Summer units) an average of 17½ units and have a GPA of 2.26.

The SC group will be compared with the EX group when comparable data is made available.

RAK:mj
2/28/67